



Hanford workers assembling the graphite core of the "C" reactor, 1951.



This book provides an in-depth look at the production of nuclear weapons by the U.S. during the Cold War and the resulting environmental impacts.

# LINKING LEGACIES

Connecting the Cold War  
Nuclear Weapons Production Processes  
To Their Environmental Consequences



This report connects the missions and functions of our nation’s nuclear weapons facilities with the inventories of waste and materials remaining at the plants, and the extent and characteristics of contamination in and around the sites.

It aims to provide Congress, DOE program managers, non-governmental analysts, and the public with an explicit picture of the environmental results of each step in the nuclear weapons production and disposition cycle. Such new knowledge from the past can help serve as a guide for the future.

This document was produced by the Environmental Management program’s Office of Strategic Planning and Analysis, with assistance from hundreds of people throughout the Department of Energy, as well as from contractors, independent experts, and others.

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*Front cover:*  
*Top: Model of the Hiroshima Bomb*  
*on display at Smithsonian Air and Space Museum*  
*in exhibit entitled “The Social Impact of Flight.”*  
*Washington, D.C. June 25, 1981.*  
*Bottom: Drums of radioactive waste*  
*in temporary storage*  
*at the Fernald site in Ohio.*  
*December 28, 1993.*



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